

obliged to abandon that place for want of Food before I can be favoured with His Ldp's Answer to my Letter I have upon the Assembly's refusing to supply them given orders for their being furnished upon my own Account with as much provision as they shall stand in need of. We are told by a Portuguese a Deserter from Fort Du Quesne that when he left that place about two Months ago the Garrison did not exceed four Hundred Men. Since that time a Party of French & Indians have made an Incursion & carried off 15 Persons from Virg^a & another Party was designed agst this Province but being discovered a few Miles from Fort Cumberland & having lost in a Skirmish that ensued a Cadet that had (as appears by his Orders) the Command of them they retired without doing the least Mischief. I had not the honour to receive your Letter of the 19th of Feb^y till within these 6 weeks when I received one likewise from Admiral Holburne wherein he required me to furnish him with a Number of Seamen for the Fleet that His Majesty had been graciously pleased to order to America under His Command. As soon as the Assembly met I submitted the Admiral's Letter as well as yours to their Consideration & pressed them to enable me to comply with the Admiral's Demand. In answer to my Message they were pleased to assure me that they were sorry it was not in their Power to comply with my Request but that the Trade of this Province must be entirely ruined if any more of our Seamen should be taken away, & indeed so many of those that have been usually employed in our Trade have left us to serve on board His Majesty's Ships or Privateers that it is not without the greatest difficulty the Masters of our Vessels homeward bound can engage a few Seamen to navigate them.

Letter Bk. III

I am with the greatest Respect Sr

[Dinwiddie to Sharpe.]

Original.

Sir

Your fav^o of the 9th July I rec^d & I sincerely thank you for your kind Wishes for me; the Time of my Departure for Britain is at present uncertain, as I have wrote Adml Holbourn for one of the King's Ships to accomodate me and Family Home, which I have good Reason to expect as its agreeable to the Orders from the Admiralty.

I am sincerely sorry Your Assembly are so refractory, surely at this Time their own Preservation, & every Thing valueable shou'd incite them with Alacrity to do all in their Power for His Majesty's Service. I shall be glad to know their Resolutions before I leave this.